



SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS
COMMUNICATIONS

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jury Awards Sedgwick County Zoo \$854,408

(Sedgwick County, Kansas) –A jury today awarded the Sedgwick County Zoo a judgement of \$854,408 in a case against Fireman's Fund Insurance Company.

The lawsuit came about after snow caused significant damage to the South American/Australian Outback Exhibit in December of 1999 and Fireman's Fund failed to cover the replacement cost. This exhibit has been closed to the public since the damaged occurred. Sedgwick County is hopeful this exhibit will be re-opened in the Spring of 2003.

"We are very excited with the verdict in this case," said Commission Chairman Ben Sciortino. "With this behind us, we can focus on getting this exhibit fixed and re-opened for the public."

The Sedgwick County Zoo was represented by the law firm of Husch & Eppenberger. After the week long trial, the jury decided to award the Zoo the \$854,408 based on a replacement cost of \$748,163 and a compensation for the loss of business of \$106,245.

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